

They urged the Congress to stop its delay and move forward with gun safety legislation. Now it is time for the Congress to stop stalling and to enact this gun safety legislation.

To date, I regret the Congress has accomplished next to nothing to enact commonsense gun safety legislation.

Have we closed the gun show loophole that permits criminals to get guns easily? No!

Have we required gun manufacturers to install child safety locks on all new guns? No!

Have we banned the importation of high-capacity ammunition clips on assault rifles? No!

As Members of the Education and Workforce Committee, both of us are committed to reducing classroom size, ensuring after-school programs and increasing student achievement test scores. We can accomplish none of these things, unless we have safe schools first.

In my home state of New York, I have worked closely with Gov. George Pataki and our state lawmakers so that we were able to enact strong commonsense gun safety legislation this year.

I am proud our state now has a law that closes the gun show loophole and requires child safety locks on guns. Now we need national commonsense gun legislation.

The House Leadership and the gun lobby have maintained their alliance to block the consideration of this commonsense gun legislation.

I urge the American people to send a message to the House leadership to reject the gun lobby and enact real gun safety legislation before we adjourn for the year.

Mr. Speaker, the new school year has just begun. We need to give parents greater assurance that their children will be safe while they are attending school.

But the truth is the Congress must do more. We can close the gun show loophole. We can require child safety locks. We can ban high-capacity ammunition clips.

# SENSE OF HOUSE REGARDING UNITED STATES-INDIA RELATIONS

SPEECH OF

**HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 12, 2000*

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, the year 2000 has been a great year for those of us actively involved in building and promoting relations between the United States and India. This week, I am proud to welcome Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee to Washington. The Prime Minister's visit comes months after President Clinton made a similar visit to India. I was fortunate to join the President on that historic visit.

While here in Washington, the Prime Minister will focus on economic relations between the two countries, as well as the role of the Indian-American community as a bridge between the two democracies.

Since the early 1990's, I have been advocating for the U.S. to build a long-term and en-

during relationship with India. This relationship makes sense since both countries share common democratic traditions. Portions of India's constitution were modeled after the U.S. constitution, and both countries share the same views of freedom of expression, protection of individual rights and a vitality of the political process.

India and the U.S. have forged close economic and commercial links. India represents enormous opportunities for U.S. firms to make new investments and enter new markets. Good relations with India can only increase the economic ties we currently have. A strong economy in India is a basis for lifting people out of poverty and for creating a strong democratic base.

The two countries also have become linked as centers of scientific and technological innovation. In the fast-changing world of high technology, the U.S. and India have already begun sharing process of information, of skills and of people who provide great benefits for consumers in both countries. India has a highly trained corps of software engineers whose talents are being utilized here and in India.

Both countries, victims of terrorism in the past, have teamed up to establish a Joint Working Group on Counterterrorism, which should enhance the effectiveness of both nations' efforts to combat terrorism worldwide.

As the region's only democracy, India will play a major role in security issues throughout Asia for years to come. I have believed for some time that India should receive a permanent seat on the United Nation's Security Council and am anxious to hear from the Prime Minister if there were any new developments while he was in New York last week. Providing this seat to India will help make the world a safer place.

While I was in India with the President earlier this year, I was fortunate to attend the signing ceremony in Agra of an historic agreement to promote cooperation in the areas of clean energy and the environment between our two countries. This agreement marks a major step toward promoting clean energy in India and protecting India's and our global environment. As part of this agreement, joint trade and investment efforts will promote clean energy technologies in India.

India and the U.S. also are conducting joint public-private partnerships in the energy sector. In fact, one New Jersey utility, PSEG, is on the verge of signing an agreement with the Indian government to carry out just such a partnership. This utility also is exploring creative methods for improving the electric supply and system reliability with partners in Karnataka. These types of efforts will promote clean energy technologies and help India avoid the pollution we experienced with our industrial development. India does not need to sacrifice its economic growth because its local businesses will conserve energy and improve their "bottom lines". I look forward to working with the Prime Minister during this week's visit to further these efforts between India and the U.S. to conserve resources, improve energy supply, and protect our environment.

As the founder and past Chairman of the Congressional Caucus on India and Indian-

Americans, as well as the Representative for one of the largest Indian-American communities in the country, I am excited by the developments of the past year between our two countries. It is my hope that Prime Minister Vajpayee's visit will strengthen relations between the world's two greatest democracies.

## IN CELEBRATION OF MARTHA BARRETT'S DEDICATION TO EDUCATION

**HON. ELTON GALLEGLY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 13, 2000*

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate Martha Barrett, whose energy and dedication in her classroom and to her profession has earned her the honor as Ventura County's Teacher of the Year.

Mrs. Barrett brings an entrepreneur's drive to teaching, totally immersing herself in her chosen profession, which isn't surprising when one considers that business was her chosen field when she entered San Diego State University. However, the future educator found joy by teaching a weekend religion class and switched to education, earning her master's degree and teaching credential.

She now teaches students and her peers at Oxnard Elementary School District.

Mrs. Barrett is a 17-year teaching veteran, teaching our youngest students to read, write and think. She is also a lifelong student, remaining current on the latest technology and teaching tools and sharing them with her peers.

After years of serving as a mentor to her fellow teachers, Mrs. Barrett was assigned to the district's Peer Assistance and Review program last week. In that role, Mrs. Barrett will help struggling teachers and coach others who wish to improve their skills.

There is little doubt her peers will benefit from Mrs. Barrett's insight. Administrators say they often have to turn away teachers who clamor to attend the numerous teaching workshops Mrs. Barrett has conducted. Her superintendent, Richard Duarte, has been quoted as calling her "truly a master teacher."

The mother of three also is active in her own children's schools and has been a team mom for her children's soccer teams. The Barretts have hosted exchange students from Japan and Spain.

Mr. Speaker, as America focuses on improving education, Mrs. Barrett serves as a model of what we expect and need from our teachers. Teaching is not a job to Mrs. Barrett. It's a calling. She works hard, she cares about her students, and she cares about her profession. She also cares enough to help her peers reach higher, so their students can too.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me in congratulating Mrs. Barrett on her achievement, in thanking her for a job very well done, and in wishing her future successes in the classroom and in her profession.